number, input on an end-user station automatically returns Web document identifiers, such as Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). The Web document search may be conducted in a database including Web document summaries or in a database including full-text Web documents."

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification to read as follows.

At page 1, amend the fourth full paragraph, beginning at line 20, to read:

"The present invention provides a highly automated search technique for discovering patent-relevant publications on the Internet. The high level of automation may be achieved with the expedient of a search client resident on an end-user station that initiates linked searches for patent data and Internet publication data in a manner non-transparent to a user. From the user's perspective, a patent-identifying attribute, such as an inventor name, assignee name or patent number, input on an end-user station automatically returns Internet publication data, such as Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) of Web documents. The Invention thereby allows a user to find patent-relevant publications on the Internet by merely inputting a patent-identifying attribute. A patent-identifying attribute may be a patent family-identifying attribute, such as an inventor name or assignee name. Or a patent-identifying attribute may be a single patent-identifying attribute, such as a patent number. Or a patent-identifying attribute may be a patent claim-identifying attribute, such as a patent claim number. A basic method for finding patent-relevant documents published on the Internet in accordance with the present invention comprises the steps of: inputting a patent-identifying attribute on an end-user station; identifying patent data from the patent-identifying attribute; identifying Internet publication data from the patent data; and outputting the Internet publication data on the end-user station."

At page 4, amend the first full paragraph, beginning at line 21, to read:

"Fundamental to achievement of a high level of automation in locating patent-relevant publications on the Internet in accordance with the present invention is the search client. In a first embodiment, search client 114, in response to an input by a user on user interface 112 that may include one or more patent-identifying attributes, takes a series of actions non-transparent to the user, including initiating linked searches on patent server 130 and search engine 140, to reveal Internet publications relevant to the patent-identifying attributes. Turning now to Figure 2, operation of search client 114 within the communication system shown in Figure 1 to achieve such non-transparent functionality is described in even greater detail by reference to a flow diagram. A user of end-user station 110 inputs at least one patent-identifying (PI) attribute on user interface 112 (205). Patent-identifying attributes may include, by way of example, inventor names, assignee names and patent numbers. If a patent number is input as a patent-identifying attribute, it may be desirable to input as a second patent-identifying attribute a patent claim number. By way of example, a user desiring to discover Internet publications relevant to any patent assigned to corporation X may input the single patent-identifying attribute "assignee=corporation X". A user desiring to discover Internet publications relevant to claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. Y may input the plurality of patent-identifying attributes "patent=Y" and "claim=1". Search client 114 forms a patent-identifying search query using the one or more patent-identifying attributes (210). In this regard, search client 114 forms a search query targeted, when applied to patent database 132, to retrieve a patent language search result that includes language from one or more patents that is relevant to the patent-identifying attributes. Relevancy may be expressed in relation to a matching of a patent-identifying attribute with data stored in a corresponding field of an entry within patent database 132. Thus, continuing the second example from above, search client 114 may form a search query that, when applied to patent database 132, would retrieve language from U.S. Patent No. Y as a result of a match of the patent-identifying attribute element "Y" (from the attribute "patent=Y") with the number "Y" stored in the patent number field of the entry for U.S. Patent No. Y within patent database 132. The patent-identifying search query is transmitted via network interface 116 and network 120 from end-user station 110 to patent server 130 (215). Patent server 130 applies the patent-identifying search query to patent

database 132 to generate a patent language (PL) search result. Continuing the second example from above, the patent language search result would include the text of claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. Y. The patent language search result is transmitted via network 120 from patent server 130 to end-user station 110 (225). Search client abstracts Web document-identifying (WDI) attributes from the patent language search result (230) and forms a Web document-identifying search query using the attributes (235). In this regard, search client 114 forms a search query targeted, when applied on search engine 140, to retrieve a Web document search result that includes Web document identifiers, such as URLs, of Web documents having Web document summaries relevant to the Web document-identifying attributes. Relevancy may be expressed in relation to the quality of a match of the Web document-identifying attributes with the Web document summaries stored in entries within Web document database 144. Abstraction of Web document-identifying attributes from the patent language search result may be accomplished by any of numerous algorithms well known in the art. Abstraction may involve, for example, reduction of a full-text patent claim to keywords separated by Boolean operators, which keywords and operators may be selected taking into account the syntactic and lexico-semantic interdependency of the words (i.e. context) of the full-text claim. Alternatively, for a search engine capable of "natural language" searching, minimal or no abstraction may be required. In any case, the Web document-identifying search query is transmitted via network interface 116 and network 120 from end-user station 110 to search engine 140 (240). Search engine 140 applies the Web document-identifying search query to Web document database 144 to generate a Web document (WD) search result (245). The Web document search result is transmitted via network 120 from search engine 140 to end-user station 110 (250). Search client 114 extracts Web document identifiers from the Web document search result (255) and outputs the Web document identifiers (260) on user interface 112. Of course, if there is more than one patent or patent claim identified in response to a patent-identifying attribute, steps 220 through 260 might be repeated for each identified claim (or independent claim) of each identified patent, resulting in discovery of relevant Web documents for each such claim (or independent claim) of each such patent. Therefore, the present invention may radically improve automation over conventional

Internet search techniques by returning to a user Web document identifiers individually tailored for each of a plurality of attribute-related patents (e.g. each patent assigned to company X) and/or patent claims (e.g. each independent claim in U.S. Patent No. Y) in response to input of a single patent-identifying attribute."

At page 9, amend the first full paragraph, beginning at line 1, to read:

"In a second embodiment, search client 314 in response to an input by a user on user interface 312 that includes one or more patent-identifying attributes, takes a series of actions non-transparent to the user, including initiating linked searches on patent server 330 and, in conjunction with search agent 318, on Web hosts 340, to reveal Internet publications relevant to the patent-identifying attributes. Turning now to Figure 4, operation of the search client 314 and search agent 318 within the communication system shown in Figure 3 to achieve such non-transparent functionality is described in even greater detail by reference to a flow diagram, wherefrom some transmission steps have been omitted for simplicity. A user of end-user station 310 inputs at least one patent-identifying (PI) attribute on user interface 312 (405). Search client 314 forms a patent-identifying search query using the one or more patent-identifying attributes (410). In this regard, search client 314 forms a search query targeted, when applied to patent database 332, to retrieve a patent classification/ patent language search result that includes pairs of patent classifications and patent language from one or more patents relevant to the one or more patent-identifying attributes. The patent classification may be a U.S. or international patent classification. The patent-identifying search query is transmitted from end-user station 310 to patent server 330. Patent server 330 applies the patent-identifying search query to patent database 332 to generate a patent classification / patent language (PC-PL) search result (415). Patent server 330 transmits the patent classification / patent language search result to end-user station 310. End-user station 310, particularly search client 314, extracts a patent classification (PC) attribute from the classification portion of the PC-PL search result (420) and forms a company website-identifying (CWI) search query using the patent classification attribute (425). In this regard, end-user station 310 forms a search query targeted, when applied on patent server 330, to retrieve a